

Serial No. 09/977,005

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Art Unit: 2644

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 2 – 8, 10 – 16, and 18 – 31 are pending in this Application. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicated the allowance of claims 18 – 31, and indicated that claims 2 – 8 and 10 – 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 9, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 6, 8, 10, and 14 have been amended and are now set forth in independent form. The Applicants therefore respectfully assert that the Application is now in condition for allowance.

Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mary Steubing, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

6/21/04
Date

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